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accompanied by descriptions of a large number of new fossil plants. Prof. Cope's report on the fossil vertebrates of Colorado contains descriptions of several new species with eight lithographic plates illustrating them. The zoology of Colorado is treated of in papers by Lt. Carpenter, Baron Osten Sacken, Dr. Hagen, and Messrs. Ulke, Smith, Verrill, Binney, and Packard. The report on the geography and topography of Colorado, by Mr. James T. Gardiner, possesses a high degree of interest, and is an important contribution to American geography.

BOTANY.

THE LOTUS IN THE DETROIT RIVER.—Early in the summer of 1868, I attempted the introduction of the Lotus or Chincopin (*Nelumbium luteum* Willd.) into the Detroit River, by planting the seed in nine different places. In company with Mr. Richard Storrs Willis, I planted (May 2, 1868) some of the seed in three places in the Bayou, at his residence at Belle Isle. Mr. Willis subsequently informed me that one plant was the result of my sowing; but I do not know that it ever arrived at perfection. I have not known of my other locations resulting in even this partial success. But last summer, at a field meeting of the Detroit Scientific Association, at Grosse Isle, several of the flowers of this beautiful species were brought me for determination by Miss Douglass, who had discovered and gathered them the day before (August 11, 1874) in the Cannard River, Ontario (a tributary of the Detroit) opposite Grosse Isle. They may have been overlooked there a long time. The year previous a young lad had told of finding, in the Cannard, a water lily different from all others, which led to the above result.

A gentleman has also succeeded in growing the plants from seed in the Rouge River, which falls into the Detroit a few miles below the city. They blossomed for the first time last summer. Another friend, who sowed the seed a year or so ago, has had as yet no appearance of its growth. I am aware that it often takes years to germinate after planting. On August 12, 1872, a seed which I had planted in my aquarium, $4\frac{1}{2}$ years before, rose to the surface of the water in the act of germinating. It afterwards sank to the bottom, and settling in the mud, but not rooting, sent out a long shoot, which (leaf and petiole), on August 17, in 24 hours, grew $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, the weather being very warm.

One could almost *see* the growth. Another seed planted at the same time and in the same place germinated in one year. — HENRY GILLMAN, *Detroit, Mich.*

ZOOLOGY.

THE GEOMETRID MOTHS. — The undersigned, desirous of perfecting as far as possible a monograph of the Geometrid moths, would beg the assistance of collectors, especially in the western and southern states, during the coming season. He would like information especially regarding the early stages, viz. : specimens and descriptions of the larva, chrysalis and their habits, as well as the food plants of any, even the most common species. Due credit will be given for any new facts. Out of about four hundred species in North America, we know of the caterpillars of but about twenty species. A number of illustrations¹ on the next page show the forms characteristic of this extensive family. The caterpillars are loopers or geometers, and are very familiar objects, feeding usually on low bushes and herbaceous plants late in summer.

As every species known is to be figured, it is hoped that entomologists will lend their rarities, and thus aid in the publication of what, it is hoped, will be a useful contribution to the study of our moths. To those aiding by the loan of over twenty specimens, a copy of the work will be sent. The larvæ can be reared easily; full instructions may be found in the "Directions for preserving and collecting Insects," recently published by the Smithsonian Institution, and which can be had on application to the subscriber.

Any moths of this family sent to the subscriber will be named and carefully returned if desired. The work is about ready for the press, and specimens are desired at once. The collecting season is May, June and July, in the middle and northern states, June being the month when they are most abundant. — A. S. PACKARD, Jr.

A DOUBLE HEADED LARVA OF A FLY. — Professor Weyenbergh of Cordova, La Plata, describes a double headed larva of *Chironomus*. The body seems double throughout, though the two heads begin to unite on the second segment behind the head, and become fully united on the sixth.

¹ Most of the cuts are kindly loaned by Prof. F. V. Hayden, having been taken from his annual report for 1873 on the Geology of Colorado Territory.